

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, November 17, 2011

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and
not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Larry Gasco, Chairman, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Larry Gasco

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call – Canetana Hurd
Attendance recorded as follows:
Absent Excused: Greg Thompson, Ilean Rabens, and Phillip Chen
- Approval of Minutes – Larry Gasco
October 2011 minutes were unanimously approved with corrections.
MSC - Caballero/Perrou

II. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco

- **Chairman** – Larry Gasco discussed the following:
New Commissioner – Mr. Gasco introduced Judy A. Cooperberg, newly appointed Commissioner representing Mayor Michael A. Antonovich, Fifth District. Ms. Cooperberg is particularly involved in service quality in the Antelope Valley for mental health and co-occurring disorders. She is an Executive Director for Mental Health America, Los Angeles and has a work history with the organization for the past 30 years. She is currently involved in a new project for homeless veterans; a collaboration with the Veterans Administration. Mr. Gasco attended the Multi-Cultural Summit in Ontario. Mr. Gasco invited a member of the Muslim faith to speak at a Commission meeting and share information about the Muslim community.
- **Executive Committee Report** – Delores Huffman reported on the some of the activities from the Executive Committee meeting held November 3:
 1. **New Employee Orientation** - Carlos Sosa spoke to the new employees at the DMH orientation on November 7. There were 70 new staff hired by DMH.
 2. **DMH Report given by Dr. Shaner** – Budget planning for fiscal year 2012/2013 are underway. The plan is challenging but doable. Funding through MHSA is sufficient. Healthy Way LA enrollment is doing well. DMH met with other department representatives involved with AB109 (Community Corrections partnership) to look at available data on inmates coming to Los Angeles County jails. DMH will provide mental health and co-occurring services to this population.
 3. **MHC/SAAC Chairs Report** – The SAAC group discussed adding charters in the revised membership guidelines. They also discussed revisions and clarification on issues mentioned in the minutes.

4. **Commission Budget** – The Commission will proceed discussions with DMH budget staff to increase the budget amount available and personnel for fiscal year 2011/2012.

III. **DMH Report – Dr. Robin Kay, Chief Deputy Director**

Dr. Kay discussed the particulars of AB 109 (Community Corrections Partnership) and its process with DMH. Probation and DMH staff are doing an unbelievable job organizing implementation of the inmate population targeted for Los Angeles County. Both department staffs are being deployed to the Probation Department assessment centers to review packets. There are 350 packets that contain the mental health history of the inmates who will arrive in Los Angeles County. By October 1 staff designated to participate will be placed at hub locations. Approximately 20% of the packets identified substance abuse and 80% co-occurring disorders. The follow through rate has increased in addition to the number of hubs. DMH plans to issue RFIs so that contractors are allowed to participate in the partnership.

Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal, DMH Legislative Analyst

Ms. Rajlal discussed trigger cuts and the \$18 billion deficit facing the state over the next 18 months. The plan for next year is \$4 billion less than in the past.

AB 3632 Update – Paul McIver, District Chief, Children's Services

Mr. McIver discussed the transition of school programs under AB 3632. For the past twenty-five years California has been the only state that provides mental health services to school district students with disabilities under AB 3632. Due to state budget cuts AB 3632 is faced with the following challenges:

- State funding sources are inadequate
- Last year funds were exhausted--school districts kicked in dollars for several months to cover costs
- AB 100 allocated \$98.6 million one-time funds allowing approximately \$33 million available to counties
- Residential placement is a new service for school districts. DMH is training the school staff to provide this service.
- Effective June 30, 2012 Los Angeles County will no longer serve SED (Special Education Disabilities) students. School districts will have to go through DMH contract providers for Medi-Cal reimbursement.

Mr. McIver also stated, during the AB 3632 transition to school districts the focus is on assisting students to succeed in school. He further stated parents increase participation in school meetings to discuss the activities of their kids because schools only observe the kids behavior and short term funding issues.

IV. Commissioners' Reports

Barry Perrou – Continues planning the Stepping In Conference. PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and children in domestic violence situations are possible themes for the 2012 conference.

George Caballero – Discussed planning an interim retreat to follow up on the goals.

Delores Huffman – Discussed the Housing Report for the month of September and the number of consumers placed in permanent housing. Ms. Huffman made several announcements for upcoming events.

Jerry Lubin – Attended the SLT (System Leadership Team) meeting. He reported the group formed a small committee on how to improve functioning of the SLT. The advisory group is comprised of 15 members who represent, the Commission, family members, staff and consumers. Their purpose is to guide DMH on implementation and other performance measures.

Larry Gasco - Attended the WET (Workforce Education, and Training) meeting and wants to schedule a WET presentation in March 2012. Mr. Gasco commended Susan Rajlal for arranging a meeting with Richard Van Horn, Co-Chair, Oversight and Accountability Commission. Mr. Horn is scheduled to attend the Commission meeting in February 2012.

V. Community and SAAC Reports

LACCC (Los Angeles County Client Coalition) – Pam Inaba

Pam Inada updated the Commission on LACCC's strategic objectives:

- voter registration drive – cancelled
- membership recruitment and outreach
- legislative visit to state capital

VI. Public Comments –

Larry Looney – Clarification of the provision statement to the commission

Olga Ramirez – Discussed problems concerning the Latina Coalition

William Legere – Discussed client participation on board and commissions

Phyllis Coto – Announced the "Innovations in Recovery" Conference February 2012; 10 workshops planned. Ms. Coto thanked the Commission for advocacy commitment and resources over the year. She heard a recent radio interview that was a positive activity to market DMH and LACCC.

Robert Coto – Spoke about the release of prisoners to Los Angeles County. He shared witnessing a violent incident in West Hollywood that was very scary. More mentally ill people are moving into the area and the City Council is not responding to the many complaints.

Sharon Capner – Question if there are translation services for deaf who attend the Commission meeting.

Sawako Nitao – Commented on the article in the LA Times newspaper about a UC Berkley student who was killed.

VII. Meeting adjournment/Next Meeting information

Thursday, December 15, 2011

12 – 2:30 pm

St. Barnabas Senior Services

675 So. Carondelet Street

Los Angeles, CA 90057

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Minutes prepared by Canetana Hurd